

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01850 01 OF 02 281535Z

44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OIC-04 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /181 W
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R 281455Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7740

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION UN

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1850

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CY UN

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTION - THE UNFICYP PROPOSAL

REF: NICOSIA 1624 AND 1564

SUMMARY: UNFICYP HAS FORWARDED TO UNSYG A PROPOSED REDUCTION PLAN TO OPERATE IN TWO STAGES, TOTALING NEARLY 25 PERCENT. PLAN PREMISED ON ACHIEVEMENT OF CERTAIN "PRECONDITIONS", BUT WE DO NOT THINK UNSYG IS LIKELY TO INSIST UPON THEM. PLAN MEETS OUR MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS, BUT IS DISAPPOINTING BOTH BECAUSE IT IS REALLY ONLY A TRIMMING DOWN, RATHER THAN A SERIOUS RESTRUCTURING OF THE FORCE TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AT A LOWER LEVEL, AND BECAUSE UNFICYP HAS SUCCESSFULLY HEADED OFF SUGGESTIONS THAT IT AT LEAST EXAMINE WHAT AN OBSERVER/MEDIATOR GROUP WOULD LOOK LIKE. PLAN APPARENTLY TO BE DISCUSSED VERY SHORTLY WITH TROOP CONTRIBUTORS, AND CONTRIBUTORS MEETING SEEMS TO BE
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01850 01 OF 02 281535Z

ENVISAGED FOR OCTOBER. WE THINK USUN MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

WITH UNSYG OFFICE, BUT REQUEST YOU PROTECT FACT WE HAD SUCH DETAILED OUTLINE. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH THE OFFICERS INVOLVED, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE UNFICYP REDUCTION PACKAGE WHICH WAS SENT FROM UNFICYP HEADQUARTERS TO THE OFFICE OF UNSYG EARLIER THIS MONTH.
 2. PROPOSAL INVOLVES A TWO STAGE CUT, FIRST TO BE EFFECTED IF NECESSARY THIS AUTUMN, SECOND TO TAKE EFFECT NEXT SPRING. (APPARENTLY, UNSYG HAD ASKED HOW SAME REDUCTION COULD BE ACHIEVED BEFORE DECEMBER UNSC MEETING, TO SHOW HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON THE PROBLEM.)
 3. FIRST STAGE WOULD INVOLVE A 100 MAN REDUCTION IN THE BRITISH CONTINGENT (SOMEWHAT OF A CONVENIENT GIMMICK, SINCE THE INCOMING CONTINGENT WILL IN ANY CASE BE THAT MUCH SMALLER THAN THE PRESENT ONE), A 50 MAN REDUCTION IN THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT, AND 25 MAN REDUCTIONS IN THE OTHER CONTINGENTS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE IRISH. (THE SWEDES HAVE RESISTED ANY CUT IN THEIR CONTINGENT, AND THAT PROBLEM HAS SIMPLY BEEN REFERRED TO UNSYG FOR RESOLUTION.) THE AUSTRIAN FIELD HOSPITAL WOULD BE PHASED OUT, AS INSTRUCTED LAST JUNE. AUSTRIAN RESISTENCE TO THIS CHANGE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN OVERCOME. THE SECOND PHASE WOULD INVOLVE A 10 PC CUT IN HEADQUARTERS STAFF, ANOTHER CUT OF 100 IN THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT, AND REDUCTION OF THE OTHER CONTINGENTS TO 200 MEN, EXCEPT FOR THE BRITISH. THE BRITISH CONTINGENT WILL BE REDUCED AND RESTRUCTURED, DOING AWAY WITH THE SEPARATE ARMORED TACTICAL RECON UNIT NOW BASED IN NICOSIA, BUT ASSIGNING 8 OF ITS 20 ARMORED SCOUT CARS TO A RESTRUCTURED BRITISH UNIT IN THE LIMASSOL DISTRICT.
 4. THE TWO CUTS WOULD TOTAL SOME 24 PERCENT FROM LAST MAY'S LEVEL. THIS IS A PARTIAL RESPONSE TO THE UNSYG REQUEST FOR SUCH A STUDY. WE NOW LEARN THAT UNSYG HAD SUGGESTED ANOTHER STUDY OF A MUCH DEEPER CUT, BUT THAT UNFICYP HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED DOING ONE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE, BARRING FURTHER DECONFRONTATION AND PROGRESS ON THE TALKS.
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- PAGE 03 NICOSI 01850 01 OF 02 281535Z
5. THE REPORT APPARENTLY MAKES CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT TO ELIMINATE ONE OR MORE CONTINGENTS ENTIRELY THAN TO KEEP THEM ALL AT A REDUCED LEVEL, BUT IT RECOGNIZES THAT THIS IS A POLITICAL DECISION TO BE LEFT TO NEW YORK.
 6. THE PROPOSAL HAS AN INTERESTING FEATURE WHEREBY IN EACH CONTINGENT, SOME OF THE PRESENT FIXED RIFLE UNITS ARE TO BE

REDUCED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR "OBSERVER TEAMS." THESE WOULD BE MOBILE TWO MAN TEAMS OPERATING BY JEEP, CONSISTING OF AN OFFICER OR SENIOR NON-COM PLUS AN ENLISTED MAN. AS DESCRIBED TO US, THEY PROVIDE THE NUCLEUS AROUND WHICH A GRADUAL CONVERSION TO OBSERVER STATUS COULD BE ORGANIZED IF THIS PROVED DESIRABLE.

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01850 02 OF 02 281542Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1850

7. AS SUBMITTED, THE PLAN IS PREMISED UPON TWO "PRECONDITIONS" AND TWO "ASSUMPTIONS." THE PRECONDITIONS ARE THAT THERE BE A COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO AVOID THE USE OF FORCE AND TO SHOULDERS MORE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING THE PEACE; AND THAT UNSYG IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO UNFICYP MUST SPELL OUT THAT UNFICYP WILL BE EXPECTED TO RELY MORE ON MEDIATION AND PERSUASION, AND WILL HAVE A SHARPLY REDUCED ABILITY TO INTERPOSE FORCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE ASSUMPTIONS ARE THAT THE COMMUNAL SITUATION WILL NOT WORSEN; AND THAT THERE BE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. (NOTE: WE GET THE FEELING THAT THESE CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS WERE PUT IN FOR LARGELY

BUREAUCRATIC REASONS: TO SHOW WHY THE FORCE COMMANDER CAN NOW RECOMMEND REDUCTIONS AFTER HAVING ARGUED SO LONG THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE; AND TO PROTECT HIM IN THE EVENT THAT VIOLENCE SHOULD FLARE UP. WE HAVE NOT HEARD THEM HOTLY DEFENDED HERE, AND WE THINK IT IS ASSUMED THAT, IF UNSYG AND THE CONTRIBUTORS WANT REDUCTIONS, ALL EXCEPT THE FIRST "ASSUMPTION" ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01850 02 OF 02 281542Z

LIKELY TO BE IGNORED IN NEW YORK.)

8. FINANCIAL SAVINGS, ACCORDING TO UNFICYP, MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE PERCENTAGES OF TROOPS, BUT UNFICYP HAS NO RELIABLE DATA ON THIS.

9. UNFICYP BELIEVES THAT UNSYG PLANS A CONTRIBUTORS MEETING IN OCTOBER IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT AN AGREED REDUCTION PROPOSAL TO THE UNSC IN DECEMBER. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IN NEW YORK. PRESENT PLANNING IS FOR OSORIO TAFALL AND PREM CHAND TO GO TO NEW YORK IN OCTOBER FOR THE CONTRIBUTORS MEETING.

10. COMMENT: ON A FAVORABLE SIDE, WE NOTE THAT THE UN DOES APPEAR TO BE COMING THROUGH WITH A REDUCTION, THOUGH A MODERATE ONE. IT IS ALSO LAUNCHING INTO MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS IN ADVANCE, TO AVOID THE PRO FORMA CHARACTERISTIC OF EARLIER CONTRIBUTOR MEETINGS. IT SEEMS TO BE RECONCILED TO ABANDONING THE DELAYING TACTIC OF INSISTING ON CONDITIONS, THOUGH PERHAPS WITH SOME FINAL REAR GUARD SKIRMISHING PLANNED. THE FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE EVOLUTION OF UNFICYP INTO AN OBSERVER/MEDIATOR GROUP. THE UNFICYP CIVILIAN POLICE, WHO COULD MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO SUCH A ROLE, ARE APPARENTLY TO BE LEFT SUBSTANTIALLY UNTOUCHED.

11. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, WE HAVE FAILED TO FORCE A SERIOUS LOOK AT WHAT AN OBSERVER/MEDIATOR FORCE WOULD BE. MOREOVER AND LARGELY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, UNFICYP HAS OPTED FOR THE ACROSS THE BOARD CUT APPROACH, RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DESCRIBE A TRULY RECONSTITUTED FORCE TO OPERATE UNDER THE NEW CONDITIONS AND AT LOWER LEVELS. THIS MEANS THAT RESERVES WILL BE THINNED OUT, AND THE PROPORTION OF SUPPORT UNITS WILL RISE. IT IS ALSO A MOVE AWAY FROM, RATHER THAN TOWARD, AMBASSADOR POPPER'S INTERESTING SUGGESTING (STATE 140729) OF AN OBSERVER/RESERVE MIX.

12. IN ORDER TO KEEP THE DEBATE REALISTIC AND TO KEEP VARIOUS FEET TO THE FIRE, WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 01850 02 OF 02 281542Z

USEFUL TO REMIND ALL PLAYERS OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN ONE'S VIEWS ON THE FORCE LEVEL AND COMPOSITION AND ONE'S WILLINGNESS TO PAY (NICOSIA 1564, PARA LE).

13. UNFICYP PROPOSAL IS A CLASSIFIED UN DOCUMENT, AND OUR SOURCES ARE ANXIOUS THAT THEY NOT BE COMPROMISED. WE RECOMMEND THAT, IN APPROACHING UN OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER, WE NOT BE EXPLICIT AS TO WHAT WE KNOW, BUT USE FACTS ABOVE FOR FRAMING LEADING QUESTIONS. WITH THAT ONE LIMITATION, WE SEE NO REASON WHY USUN SHOULD NOT ASK FOR THE REPORT AND BEGIN THE DIALOGUE WITH UNSYG, PARTICULARLY IF TROOP CONTRIBUTORS ARE BEING APPROACHED. END COMMENT.
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